

JS 44 (Rev. 12/12)

CIVIL COVER SHEET

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF THIS FORM.)

purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF I. (a) PLAINTIFFS Sylvia Lewis McKay				DEFENDANTS Fitness International LLC, d/b/a						
,,,,,				LA Fitness	_					
(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number) Robin J. Gray, Esq. P.O. Box 4322, Reading, PA 19606 (610) 689-0877				County of Residence of First Listed Defendant Berks County (IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY) NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED.						
				Attorneys (If Known) D. Michael Beck, Esq. 3161Michelson Drive, Suite 600 Irvine, CA 92612						
II. BASIS OF JURISDI	CTION (Place an "X" in Or	ne Box Only)		TIZENSHIP OF		AL PARTIES	(Place an "X" in	One Box j	for Plaint	
□ 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff	3 Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party)			(For Diversity Cases Only) PTF DEF Citizen of This State						
2 U.S. Government Defendant				Citizen of Another State						
				n or Subject of a	3 3	Foreign Nation		□ 6	□ 6	
IV. NATURE OF SUIT		(v) RTS	FO	PRFEITURE/PENALTY	BAN	NKRUPTCY	OTHER	STATUT	ES	
□ 110 Insurance □ 120 Marine □ 130 Miller Act □ 140 Negotiable Instrument □ 150 Recovery of Overpayment ∞ Enforcement of Judgment □ 151 Medicare Act □ 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excludes Veterans) □ 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits □ 160 Stockholders' Suits □ 190 Other Contract □ 195 Contract Product Liability □ 196 Franchise REAL PROPERTY □ 210 Land Condemnation □ 220 Foreclosure □ 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment □ 240 Torts to Land □ 245 Tort Product Liability □ 290 All Other Real Property	PERSONAL INJURY 310 Airplane 315 Airplane Product Liability 320 Assault, Libel & Slander 330 Federal Employers' Liability 340 Marine 345 Marine Product Liability 350 Motor Vehicle 355 Motor Vehicle Product Liability 360 Other Personal Injury 362 Personal Injury - Medical Malpractice CIVIL RIGHTS 440 Other Civil Rights 441 Voting 442 Employment 443 Housing/ Accommodations 445 Amer. w/Disabilities - Employment 446 Amer. w/Disabilities - Other 448 Education	PERSONAL INJURY Product Liability Product Liability Product Liability Personal Injury Product Liability Personal Injury Product Liability 368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability PERSONAL PROPER 370 Other Fraud 371 Truth in Lending Nother Personal Property Damage Product Liability PRISONER PETITION Habeas Corpus: 463 Alien Detainee 510 Motions to Vacate Sentence 530 General 535 Death Penalty Other: 540 Mandamus & Othe 550 Civil Rights 555 Prison Condition 560 Civil Detainee - Conditions of Confinement	TY	LABOR O Cher LABOR Fair Labor Standards Act Act Labor/Management Relations Relations O Railway Labor Act Family and Medical Leave Act Other Labor Litigation Employee Retirement Income Security Act IMMIGRATION Naturalization Application Other Immigration Actions	422 App 423 With 28 U PROPE 820 Copy 830 Pater 840 Trad 861 HIA 862 Blac 863 Dlw 864 SSII 865 RSI	eal 28 USC 158 ddrawal USC 157 RTY RIGHTS virights nt emark SECURITY (1395ff) k Lung (923) C/DIWW (405(g)) D Title XVI	375 False C 400 State Re 410 Antitrus 430 Banks a 450 Comme 460 Deporta 470 Rackete Corrupt 480 Consum 490 Cable/S 850 Securiti Exchan 890 Other S 891 Agricul 893 Environ 895 Freedor Act 896 Arbitrat 899 Admini Act/Rev	laims Act eapportion st and Bankin erce ention eer Influer Organiza eer Credit iat TV es/Comm age tatutory A tural Acts umental M n of Infor tion strative Pr view or Ap Decision utionality	nment ng nced and tions nodities/ Actions idatters mation rocedure	
	noved from the Court 3 Figure 1 3 Figure 2 3	Appellate Court ute under which you are et seq. (Title VII) use:		ened Anoth (specify) no not cite jurisdictional st	ner District	☐ 6 Multidistr Litigation				
VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:	CHECK IF THIS I UNDER RULE 23	S A CLASS ACTION , F.R.Cv.P.	DI	EMAND \$		CHECK YES only URY DEMAND:	N-4	complai		
VIII. RELATED CASE IF ANY	(See instructions):	JUDGE			DOCKE	ET NUMBER				
DATE 05/19/2014		SIGNATURE OF AUT	ORNEYO	ERECORD						
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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA — DESIGNATION FORM to be used by counsel to indicate the category of the case for the purpose of assignment to appropriate calendar. 1037 South Street, Reading PA 19601 Address of Plaintiff:_ 1183 Butshire Blud, Myon song PA 19610 Place of Accident, Incident or Transaction: (Use Reverse Side For Additional Space) Does this civil action involve a nongovernmental corporate party with any parent corporation and any publicly held corporation owning 10% or more of its stock? (Attach two copies of the Disclosure Statement Form in accordance with Fed.R.Civ.P. 7.1(a)) Yes□ No[2] No X Yes□ Does this case involve multidistrict litigation possibilities? RELATED CASE, IF ANY: Date Terminated: Case Number: Civil cases are deemed related when yes is answered to any of the following questions: 1. Is this case related to property included in an earlier numbered suit pending or within one year previously terminated action in this court? Not 2. Does this case involve the same issue of fact or grow out of the same transaction as a prior suit pending or within one year previously terminated action in this court? 3. Does this case involve the validity or infringement of a patent already in suit or any earlier numbered case pending or within one year previously Yes□ No terminated action in this court? 4. Is this case a second or successive habeas corpus, social security appeal, or pro se civil rights case filed by the same individual? Yes□ No 🔀 CIVIL: (Place / in ONE CATEGORY ONLY) B. Diversity Jurisdiction Cases: A. Federal Question Cases: 1. D Indemnity Contract, Marine Contract, and All Other Contracts 1.

Insurance Contract and Other Contracts 2.

Airplane Personal Injury 2. D FELA 3.

Assault, Defamation 3.

Jones Act-Personal Injury 4. D Marine Personal Injury 4.

Antitrust 5. I Motor Vehicle Personal Injury 5. D Patent 6. □ Other Personal Injury (Please specify) 6. □ Labor-Management Relations 7. □ Products Liability 7. Civil Rights 8. Products Liability - Asbestos 8.

Habeas Corpus 9. □ All other Diversity Cases 9.

Securities Act(s) Cases 10. □ Social Security Review Cases (Please specify) 11.

All other Federal Question Cases (Please specify) _ ARBITRATION CERTIFICATION (Check Appropriate Category) , counsel of record do hereby certify: IX Pursuant to Local Civil Rule 53.2, Section 3(c)(2), that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the damages recoverable in this civil action case exceed the sum of \$150,000.00 exclusive of interest and costs; □ Relief other than monetary damages is sought NOTE: A trial de novo will be a trial by jury only if there has been compliance with F.R.C.P. 38. I certify that, to my knowledge, the within case is not related to any case now pending or within one year previously terminated action in this court except as noted above.

CIV. 609 (5/2012)

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

CASE MANAGEMENT TRACK DESIGNATION FORM

Telephone	FAX Num	ber	E-Mail Address						
Date	Attorney-a	t-law	Attorney for						
(f) Standard Management -	- Cases that do no	t fall into an	y one of the other tracks.	(χ)					
(e) Special Management – (commonly referred to as the court. (See reverse management cases.)	s complex and tha	it need speci	al or intense management by	()					
(d) Asbestos – Cases involvexposure to asbestos.	ing claims for per	rsonal injury	or property damage from	()					
(c) Arbitration – Cases requ	aired to be designa	ated for arbi	tration under Local Civil Rule 53.2.	. ()					
(b) Social Security – Cases requesting review of a decision of the Secretary of Health and Human Services denying plaintiff Social Security Benefits.									
(a) Habeas Corpus – Cases brought under 28 U.S.C. § 2241 through § 2255.									
SELECT ONE OF THE F	OLLOWING CA	SE MANA	GEMENT TRACKS:						
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(Civ. 660) 10/02

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

SYLVIA LEWIS MCKAY :

Plaintiff :

v. : Civil Action No.

:

FITNESS INTERNATIONAL LLC

d/b/a LA FITNESS : JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

Defendant

:

COMPLAINT

AND NOW, comes the above named Plaintiff, Sylvia Lewis McKay, by and through her attorney, Robin J. Gray, and brings this action against the above named Defendant, and states the following in support thereof:

- Plaintiff Sylvia Lewis McKay (hereinafter referred to as McKay), is an adult citizen of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania residing at 1037 South Street, Reading, Berks County, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania 19602.
- 2. Defendant Fitness International LLC, d/b/a LA Fitness, (hereinafter referred to as "LA Fitness), is a national physical fitness company who properly conducts business at 1183 Berkshire Boulevard, Wyomissing, PA 19610. Highway, Reading, Berks County, Pennsylvania 19605.
- 3. Defendant is at all relevant times collectively and/or individually Plaintiff's employer within the meaning of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, 42 U.S.C. '2000e, et seq ("Title VII") and the

Pennsylvania Human Relations Act, as amended, 43 P.S. 951 et seq ("PHRA").

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 4. This court has jurisdiction n this matter pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 1331 and 1343 in that Plaintiff brings this action under Title VII. With respect to Plaintiff's state law claims, this court has supplemental jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 1367.
- 5. Venue properly lies with this court in that the violations of Plaintiff's rights under federal law occurred within the geographical boundaries of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEEDINGS

- 6. Plaintiff timely filed a charge and complaint of employment discrimination under Title VII with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission ("EEOC") and the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission ("PHRC").
 - 7. More than one year has passed since Plaintiff filed her complaint of discrimination with the PHRC and charge of discrimination with the EEOC.
 - 8.On or about February 26, 2014, Plaintiff received a Notice of Right to Sue from the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

- 9. On or about October 18, 2006, McKay, an African American female was hired as a janitor at Defendant LA Fitness.
- On or about June 2009, McKay was promoted to Lead Janitor by Eric
 Moyer who was a manager at LA Fitness.
- 11. After June 2009, Eric Moyer was promoted to District Manager and
 Brooke Curley became McKay's manager along with Jessica Stroup, the
 operations manager.
- 12. McKay had reported issues about Brooke Curley to upper management regarding inappropriate jobs McKay was expected to do; i.e. cleaning the men's room when men were present.
- 13. When McKay was hired, there were only (I the number of African American workers) African American workers.
- 14. After June 2009, when Brooke Curley and Jessica Stoup were managing LA Fitness, they began terminating the African American workers.
- 15. At the end of 2009 until March 2012, Jessica Stroup continually harassed McKay, making McKay perform double the workload without giving McKay the additional hours to perform the work
- 16. Stroup would also continually complain about Sylvia always asking "where is Sylvia" "why isn't Sylvia doing things," etc.
- 17. On or about March 2012, McKay's hours were cut without reason, but her job responsibilities remained the same.

- Further, on or about March 2012, Stroup hired Ryan Peterson, a Caucasian
 Male initially as a janitor for LA Fitness.
- 19. Peterson was to be trained to fill a management position.
- 20. Stroup told Peterson that he was to train with McKay in her position as lead janitor so that he could learn all aspects of the job.
- 21. Instead of training to learn McKay's position, Peterson replaced McKay in her position.
- 22. Stroup cut McKay's hours under the guise that after Peterson was placed in the management position, McKay's hours would be restored.
- 23. McKay's hours were never restored.
- 24. At the time Peterson was hired in March 2012, McKay was the only African American janitor at LA Fitness.
- On or about May or June 2012, Peterson was promoted to Facility Supervisor.
- 26. Instead of giving McKay her full hours back, Stroup had Peterson perform McKay's work as well as his new position as Facility Supervisor.
- 27. Prior to Peterson's promotion, McKay contacted Stroup as well as Brooke Curley about Peterson's promotion and that he was not doing a good job and there were several complaints. Instead of correcting Peterson,

 Peterson was promoted to Facilities manager.

- 28. Although McKay had been an employee at LA Fitness since it opened in 2006, she was not given the option to be promoted into a Facilities

 Managerial position. Instead, the job was given to Peterson, who did not have the experience, but who was a Caucasian Male.
- Stroup would treat McKay different than she treated Peterson or other
 Caucasian workers.
- 30. Stroup placed unreasonable demands on McKay and was overly picky on anything McKay would do, whereas other Caucasian workers would not be subjected to the same scrutiny.
- 31. Stroup would also make snide remarks about McKay and her work, whereas Stroup would not make the same remarks about Caucasian workers.
- 32. Peterson asked Stroup about reinstating McKay's hours. Stroup did not answer Peterson, but stomped off into another room. Thereafter, Stroup started to treat Peterson and she did McKay because of Peterson's defense of McKay in the work place. (See Statement of Ryan Peterson attached hereto as Exhibit "A").
- 33. McKay filed a Charge of Discrimination with the EEOC on or about March 2012 when McKay was demoted and replaced by Peterson.
- 34. After filing the charge of discrimination, many of the racial comments and harassment increased toward McKay, trying to force McKay out of her employment with LA Fitness.

- 35. On or about December 2012, Peterson left LA Fitness due to the harassment he faced because he defended McKay.
- 36. After Peterson left LA Fitness, the eight hour shift was again available.
- 37. Although the eight hour shift was available, McKay was not offered the shift. Instead a new Caucasian cleaner was hired to start the eight hour shift, while McKay was still given forced to work her reduced hours and was no longer the lead janitor.
- 38. On or about December 23, 2012, McKay sent a letter to Brooke Curley, the district manager, stating her objection to another employee being hired for hours that McKay previously worked.
- The response to McKay's letter was to terminate McKay on January 8,2013 allegedly for poor work performance.
- 40. After McKay was terminated and the EEOC began investigating McKay's charge of discrimination, LA Fitness hired two African American janitors. However, prior to the EEOC investigation, LA Fitness terminated all of the African American janitors while under the management of Brooke Curley and Jessica Stroup.
- 41. As a result of LA Fitness' discriminatory and harassing treatment of McKay, McKay suffered severe economic losses.
- 42. As a further result of LA Fitness' discriminatory and harassing treatment of Plaintiff, Plaintiff suffered emotional harm.

COUNT I RACIAL DISCRIMINATION UNDER THE PENNSYLVANIA HUMAN RELATIONS ACT

- 43. Plaintiff hereby incorporates paragraphs 1 through 42 as if fully set forth at length herein.
- 44. The actions of the aforesaid Defendant, by and through its agents, servants, workers, and/or employees, as herein described above, resulted in racially motivated hiring, promotion, and demotion practices, created a hostile work environment, and resulted in racial discrimination in violation of the PHRA.
- 45. The actions creating said racial discrimination and hostile work environment, include, but are not limited to, those actions listed in the above- described paragraphs.
- 46. As relief for Defendant's violation of Plaintiff's rights under Title VII, Plaintiff demands to be made whole, said relief to include, but not limited to, compensatory damages, past and future loss of wages, attorney's fees, costs, and such other relief as the court deems proper.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, Sylvia McKay, hereby requests this Honorable Court find in her favor and against Defendant for an amount in excess of \$150,000.00, plus attorney's fees, interest, costs, and such other relief as the court deems equitable and just.

COUNT II TITLE VII: RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

- 47. Plaintiff hereby incorporates paragraphs 1 through 48 as if fully set forth at length herein.
- 48. The actions of the aforesaid Defendant, by and through its agents, servants, workers, and/or employees, as herein described above, resulted in racially motivated hiring and promotion practices, created a hostile work environment, and resulted in racial discrimination in violation of the Title VII.
- 49. The actions creating said racial discrimination and hostile work environment, include, but are not limited to, those actions listed in the above- described paragraphs.
- 50. As relief for Defendant's violation of Plaintiff's rights under Title VII, Plaintiff demands to be made whole, said relief to include, but not limited to, compensatory damages, punitive damages, past and future loss of wages, attorney's fees, costs, and such other relief as the court deems proper.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, Sylvia McKay, hereby requests this Honorable Court find in her favor and against Defendant for an amount in excess of \$150,000.00, plus attorney's fees, interest, costs, and such other relief as the court deems equitable and just.

Respectfully submitted

Robin J. Gray

EXHIBIT A

STATEMENT OF RYAN PETERSON

I, Ryan Peterson, residing at 510 ½ Raymond St. Reading, Pa 19605, hereby make this statement regarding my knowledge of facts associated with Ms. Sylvia McKay's employment with LA Fitness.

I was hired by LA Fitness on or about March 2012. I am a Caucasian male, I was initially bired as a janitor. I was to be trained to fill a management position. Jessica Stroup, the operations manager, hired me and told me that I was to train with Sylvia McKay in her position so I would learn all aspects of the job. Instead of training to learn Ms. McKay's position, I replaced Ms. McKay in her position. Ms. Stroup cut Sylvia's hours under the guise that after I was placed in the management position, Ms. McKay would be restored to her full hours. This did not happen.

On or about May or June of 2012, I was promoted to Facility Supervisor. However, instead of giving Sylvia her hours back, I was performing Sylvia's job as well as my job as Facility Supervisor. Sylvia never had her hours returned to her.

Ms. Stroup would constantly treat Sylvia, an African American female, different that she treated me or other Caucasian workers. Ms. Stroup placed unreasonable demands upon Sylvia, although her hours were cut and was overly picky on anything Sylvia would do, whereas other Caucasian workers would not be subjected to the same scrutiny.

Ms. Stroup would always make snide remarks about Sylvia, again being overly picky whereas she did not make such remarks about other Caucasian workers.

l asked Ms. Stroup one day about Sylvia and giving Sylvia her hours back. Ms. Stroup did not answer me, but stomped off and into another room. Thereafter, Ms. Stroup started to treat me as she treated Sylvia because of my defense of Sylvia in the workplace.

At the time of my employment, Sylvia McKay was the only African American employee

in our department at LA Fitness. I have since learned that after Sylvia's filing of discrimination

with the EEOC, LA Fitness has hired two African American janitorial workers. Until this time,

LA Fitness and especially Ms. Stroup found it necessary to discriminate and chase out any

African American workers.

Due to the retaliation by Ms. Stroup and my obtaining a higher paying job, I left my

employment at LA Fitness on December 2012.

I verify that the statements made in this Statement are true and correct to the best of my

knowledge and belief.

Rvan Peterson

Date: 12/10/13